

## DO THE TWO-STEP

There are really just two simple steps to effective participation in transportation projects:

**One**, do your research and find out what projects are out there and what they are about...what will they build? What impacts and benefits are expected? Then...

**"I'm not much of a public speaker"**

**Two**, you don't have to make speeches in front of large groups of people in order to have your say. Get on a project mailing list so that you're aware of the latest developments. Read project reports. Then, draw a picture, write a letter, take a photo, send an email, cut out magazine articles about things implemented in other places, make a phone call, talk at a meeting, join a workshop.... Through your input, the NHDOT strives to achieve full and fair participation of all affected communities.

### Other pieces in the Citizen's Guide to Transportation series include:

- #1 Having Your Say in transportation projects that shape your community
- #2 Planning the Future of New Hampshire Transportation
- #3 Project Development: Making transportation projects a reality
- #4 Access Management
- #5 Transportation Enhancement Program
- #7. The Transportation/Land Use Relationship

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For more information about the CMAQ Program, please contact your Regional Planning Commission or the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

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New Hampshire Department of Transportation

Citizen's Guide to Transportation Series

# CONGESTION MITIGATION & AIR QUALITY PROGRAM



### What is the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program?

The 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) established the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ), substantially expanding the focus and purpose of Federal transportation funding and programs to address air quality. CMAQ specifically provides assistance for air quality improvement and congestion mitigation projects in urbanized areas which have been identified as nonattainment. The CMAQ program continues under the current Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, or TEA-21.

### What types of projects are eligible?

Projects that would result in an air quality benefit, under any of the following categories:

- Transit - Construction, equipment, parking for transit services, or operating expenses for new and improved transit services for a maximum of three years, etc.;
- Other Shared Ride - Vanpool and carpool programs, and parking for such services, etc.;
- Highway or Road - Traffic management and control services, signalization projects, intersection improvements, and construction and dedication of high-occupancy vehicle lanes, etc.;
- Demand Management - Employer trip reduction programs, transportation management programs, flexible work schedule programs, vehicle restriction programs, etc.;

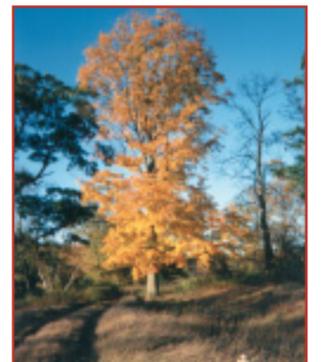
- Pedestrian or Bicycle Facilities - Sidewalks, trails, storage facilities, promotional activities, etc.;
- Inspection and Maintenance Programs (I/M) and Traffic Control Measures (TCMs) not covered by the preceding categories; and,
- Education and outreach to increase public knowledge of transportation-related air pollution emissions, and opportunities to reduce them.

### Who can apply?

Cities, towns, state agencies, private industry and special interest groups may apply for CMAQ funding for their project. Federal funds will pay up to 80% of the cost of the project, with the applicant being responsible to provide matching funds. Communities are encouraged to "Municipally Manage" their projects, allowing for local decision-making and scheduling to meet community needs.

### When are applications accepted?

The application process for CMAQ funds is a two-year cycle, beginning in June of each odd-numbered year (e.g., June of 2001, 2003, etc.)



The funding of CMAQ projects helps develop programs which preserve New Hampshire's natural environment.



# CONGESTION MITIGATION & AIR QUALITY PROGRAM



## How are applications made?

Applications are available at the Regional Planning Commission offices in your area (see list that follows). Completed applications must be submitted to the RPC office within whose jurisdiction the project is located, no later than the end of August of odd-numbered years (e.g., August 2001, 2003, etc.). Applications must include documentation of air-quality benefits resulting from the project proposed.



Three trolleys were purchased with CMAQ funds to provide connections between downtown Portsmouth, NH and Pease International Tradeport, facilitating access for residents to jobs, business opportunities and air transportation.



NHDOT also uses CMAQ funds to disseminate information about available commuter services all over the state.

## How are projects selected?

The selection process takes almost a year:

First, the RPCs review the applications for completeness, accuracy, eligibility and air quality benefits, then rank the projects using their selection criteria.

The project applications and their rankings are submitted to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT). After NHDOT review, the applications are forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services/Air Resources Division for eligibility determinations. These agencies review the application simultaneously for accuracy and potential air-quality benefits, resulting from the project.

NHDOT then forwards the project applications to the CMAQ Advisory Committee. The CMAQ Advisory Committee (CMAQAC) is comprised of representatives from the Executive Council, NHDOT, the RPCs and a designer from the Department of Environmental Services. It is the responsibility of this committee to recommend a list of projects and to monitor ongoing projects. The CMAQAC conducts a public hearing on applications. Hearings are advertised in newspapers, during the winter of even-numbered years (e.g., 2002, 2004, etc.).

After receiving input at the hearing CMAQAC members rate all of the projects and forward a list of recommended projects to the NHDOT Commissioner by April 1 of even-numbered years. The Commissioner reviews the projects and then sends recommendations to the Governor's Advisory Committee on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) by April 15th.

Finally, once the projects are approved by GACIT they are placed on the State's Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

## Examples of Previously Selected Projects

- Acquisition of passenger motor coaches to expand commuter bus service to Boston.
- Construction of intermodal park-and-ride facilities in Concord, Portsmouth, and Nashua.
- A statewide Vanpool Incentive Program.
- Installation of a coordinated traffic signal system on Route 101A in Nashua.
- Establishment of a Transportation Management Association for the Manchester Airport area, with development of traffic reduction regulations.
- Construction of a system of multi-use paths in Derry connecting schools, recreation facilities, businesses and residential areas.
- Rehabilitation of an existing railroad bridge for pedestrian and bicycle use along an abandoned railroad corridor in Raymond.
- Development and implementation of a series of public service announcements focused on "Clean Driving" in New Hampshire.
- Construction of sidewalks in Nashua residential neighborhoods to provide safe routes to schools, reducing automobile and bus trips.
- Construction of rail platforms for the new Boston-Portland service.
- Modifications of a parking garage in downtown Nashua to become an intermodal transit facility.
- Purchase of commuter rail locomotive and coaches to extend commuter rail service from Lowell to Nashua and Merrimack.
- Construction of a park-and-ride structure with intermodal facilities in Manchester.



NHDOT used CMAQ funds to build an intermodal park-and-ride facility in Nashua, New Hampshire and to purchase 6 over-the-road bus coaches that are used for commuter services.